

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BA 52335

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 29, 1963

E
ERIK HEINE
IS - ESTONIA

On August 22, 1963, Endel Kuik, 2618 West 84th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota, president, Estonian Society of Minnesota, advised that captioned individual had, on June 22, 1963, shown a film, "Creators of Legend," at the Minneapolis Downtown YWCA, Benton Hall, Nicollet Avenue and 12th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The film and lecture lasted approximately 2½ hours.

Mr. Heine arrived in Minneapolis on June 20, 1963, and departed the city on June 25, 1963. During this time he stayed as a guest in the Kuik home. During this visit Mr. Kuik had numerous conversations with Heine. Heine did not make any inquiries nor evidence any interest in the number or employments of any of the Estonian natives now residing in the State of Minnesota.

Endel Kuik advised that he, himself, is a native of Estonia, having immigrated to the United States in February, 1951, from Germany, which country he had entered from Estonia in 1944. Kuik expressed the opinion that Erik Heine is a very truthful and strong Estonian patriot. He did not know Heine in Estonia, but knew the Heine family by reputation as the owners of the Heine Piano Factory at Tartu, Estonia.

Heine's story of release from Siberian slave labor camp is not unbelievable to Kuik, inasmuch as he is personally acquainted with one Olaf Tammark, now living at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, who also was released from Siberian imprisonment and made his way from Russia in the same manner as Heine.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

ed FOR COORDINATION WITH INS

RECORDED

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

KERIK HEINE

Kuik made available the following news release used by the Estonian Society of Minnesota in announcing Heine's visit to Minneapolis:

"FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE"

"Eerik Heine, an Estonian patriot, guerilla fighter against communists, ex-slave from Siberian Labor camps, now a writer and film producer, will arrive in Minneapolis, Thursday, in connection with the showing of 'CREATORS OF LEGEND'. This is a full length motion picture in Estonian language, produced in Canada, now touring the United States.

"Sponsored by the Estonian Society of Minnesota, 'CREATORS OF LEGEND' will be shown Saturday, June 22, at 8:00 p.m., in the Minneapolis downtown YWCA Benton Hall, Nicollet Avenue & 12th Street.

"Preceeding the showing of 'CREATORS OF LEGEND' there will be a Press Conference at 7 p.m., Saturday at the same YWCA Benton Hall, to which you are kindly invited. Eerik Heine, the writer, editor, and producer of the picture, will be present at the Press Conference.

"Eerik Heine, a native of Estonia, was first arrested by the Soviets while a high school student, when the Soviet Union first invaded Estonia, in 1940. During World War II, he was compulsorily drafted into the German Army and taken as a prisoner of war, again by the Russians. He was sent to a slave labor camp, from which he fled. He then joined the Estonian guerilla fighters and fought with them for five years against Soviet troops and notorious NKVD units. Captured after brutal fights for the third time by the Russians in 1950, he was given a death sentence by Soviet secret police, which was then changed to a life term of slave labor in Siberia. After another 6 terrible years as a slave, Eerik Heine carried out his own plan of escape to free world. First he came to West Germany, then to Canada and the United States.

"When Eerik Heine was still fighting in Estonian woods, he gave a pledge that if he ever reached the free world, he would

ERIK HEINE

tell all people about the bitter fight of patriots in Sovjet held countries.

"After several years of hard work in Canada Erik Heine saved to fulfill this pledge and dramatize the desperate fight of free men against communism. He wrote and produced 'CREATORS OF LEGEND'. The script is based mostly on Erik Heine's own experiences as a guerilla fighter in Estonia, 1945 - 1950. It has a cast of 80, including several professional actors from Canada and was produced in co-operation with Canadian railroads and the equipment of the Canadian Army. The film is dedicated to the memory of those who fought, bled and hoped for freedom, creating a legend that should live forever in the hearts of others who believe in freedom.

"Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m., Mr. Heine will speak at the Estonian Midsummer Holiday, 'Victory Day', celebration at Bryant Lake Resort, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. There will be a program of Estonian folklore, songs, dances, ceremonial 'Victory Fire' and a folkfest."

A report of an interview of Erik Heine by Robert Hentges, "Minneapolis Star" staff writer, appears on page 5A of the "Minneapolis Star" newspaper dated June 22, 1963. This article reports that Erik Heine, a 43 year old Canadian citizen, was touring the United States with a movie based on experiences of his 19 member guerilla band which roamed Estonia forests from 1945 until all except himself had been killed or captured in 1950. The newspaper article quotes Heine to the effect that the Russians had captured him three times and sentenced him to hard labor in Siberia. After many attempts Heine escaped from the labor camp in Siberia and fled along 1500 miles of railroad track to freedom, stealing food, hiding by day and traveling on the trains as a hobo at night.

Meema Malgi, temporarily employed by Chester E. Groth and Company, 915 Marquette Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota, advised on August 20, 1963, that Erik Heine is not personally known to him. He has, however, read about Heine in Estonian language newspapers published in the United States and has read Heine's book recounting his experiences as a prisoner in Siberia. He has

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ERIK HEINE

heard Heine lecture in New York City and has heard of Heine's exploits as an active anti-Communist from reliable members of the Estonian community residing in New York. Malgi, himself, is a native Estonian, having resided in that country until 1944, when he went to Germany and lived until May 29, 1949, then immigrating to the United States.

Malgi lived in the City of Simona, Estonia, where he was employed as a school principal. Since coming to the United States he has been self-employed as a violin maker and repairman. He resides at 8L-05 119th Street, College Point, New York. He is a member of the Estonian National Committee of the United States, with headquarters in New York City.

Malgi advised that he considers Heine as definitely anti-Communist, and as an individual completely dedicated to the work of advising the free peoples of the world of the true nature of Communism, which he regards as being the worst form of slavery. Malgi finds nothing implausible in Heine's story of Siberian imprisonment and escape. It was Malgi's understanding that Heine accomplished his eventual escape from Russia through a pretense of being a German. He accepts this as possible because he understands that at the time Heine was captured by the Russian army, he was serving as an Estonian with the German army. Further, the name Heine is German and Heine has the appearance of a German. Also, Malgi is acquainted with a Mrs. Lehtmets, now living with her son at 122-19 25th Avenue, College Point, New York, and Mrs. Lehtmets is an Estonian immigrant to the United States, who was imprisoned in Siberia for 13 years and who also was able to leave Siberia. He could not advise as to whether she had been released or had escaped from such imprisonment.

✓ Some months ago, Malgi received a letter from Yuri Raus, whom Malgi had known in Estonia. In this letter Raus advised that he considered Heine a possible Soviet agent. Malgi does not believe this possible and regards Raus as an irresponsible and unreliable person. Malgi has great respect for Raus' father, now deceased, a former Estonian army captain, but regards Raus, himself, as unreliable because he knows him to be a heavy drinker. He feels

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

EERIK HEINE

that Raus was attempting to gain personal advantage by ingratiating himself with United States officials through allegations against Heine. Further, he feels that Raus is jealous of Heine's success and following.

Eugene Raid, Rural Route 1, Prior Lake, Minnesota, advised on August 22, 1963, that he is a native Estonian, that he left Estonia with retreating Germans in 1944, and resided in Germany from 1944 to July 28, 1949, when he came to the United States. Raid stated that in Estonia he lived and worked as a police lieutenant in the City of Paide, which is the county seat of Jaervla County, Estonia. Just prior to Russia's entrance into Estonia in 1940, Raid retired from this position. He stated that the woods in which Heine claims to have lived with 19 other individuals while fighting as a guerilla against the Soviet army is located in the County of Jaervla. He stated that he, himself, lived in the woods at the time the Russians entered Estonia in 1940, and he became somewhat familiar with them. When the Germans entered Estonia, driving the Russians out, Raid returned to his home and was arrested. He was advised by the Germans that he either must fight in the German army or return to his work as a police officer. He then became employed once again as a police officer in Paide.

Raid advised that he attended the lecture and movie given by Eerik Heine in Minneapolis, June 22, 1963, as well as the talk given by Heine, during the Estonian Mid-Summer Holiday celebration in a suburb of Minneapolis on June 23, 1963. Raid had previously heard rumors, questioning Heine's claims as an Estonian Freedom Fighter, and during the Mid-Summer Holiday celebration, he spent two or three hours in personal conversation with Heine, in an effort to evaluate his claims. During this conversation, he found that Heine was not, in his opinion, familiar with the woods from which he claimed to have operated as an Estonian partisan against the Russians. He was unfamiliar with certain landmarks which Raid feels anyone spending extensive time in the woods would have known about. He stated that he, himself, was personally acquainted with four individuals who Heine alleged were among those fighting with him from the woods. Heine advised that these individuals were all killed by the Russians. Heine's

3A50335

ERIK HEINE

story of capture and imprisonment is difficult for Raid to believe, for according to Raid, it was the practice of the Russians simply to shoot and kill those in the Estonian Resistance Movement who were captured.

Concerning Heine's alleged escape from Siberia, Raid feels that to escape from Siberia during the winter months, as Heine claims, and to successfully make one's way through Russia while being physically destitute and weak, is next to impossible. Heine claimed to have been imprisoned in Tallinn, Estonia. As a result of Raid's work as a police officer, he, himself, was well acquainted with this prison. He found as he talked to Heine, that Heine knew things about the prison that only one who had been on the inside of the prison could have known.

Raid was not personally acquainted with Heine in Estonia, and could advise of no one who might have been. He, however, knew by reputation of the very prominent Heine family, who owned and operated a piano factory in Estonia. He stated that the Heine Piano was well known throughout Northern Europe.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY
- 6 -